

Иван Христов

ТРОГЛО ДИТИТЕ

непознатите траки
и скалните паметници
край морския бряг



« СЛАВЕНА

ТРОГЛОДИТИТЕ

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TROGLODYTES: THE ROCK-CULTURE OF THE THRACIANS ALONG THE WEST COAST OF THE BLACK SEA

IVAN HRISTOV

INTRODUCTION

The lands around Cape Kaliakra, the village of Kamen Bryag and Tyulenovo are probably the most attractive, filled with romance and mystery places along the Bulgarian coast of the Black Sea. For most of the ex- and present students, the northern coast of the Bulgarian coast of the Black Sea presents emblematic places like "the eternal small fire" near Yuailata Locality, the sights for climbing near Tyulenovo and the many caves in the high and rocky coast in the north of Cape Kaliakra.

In contrast to the highly urbanized southern part of our seacoast, the northern seacoast still offers tens of kilometers of preserved environment combined with many historical sites to those who love adventures and traveling. (Ill. 1)

Obviously, the lack of lands comfortable for building and fast developing hotel business, as well as the lack of broad beaches, preconditioned the preservation of many archaeological sites dating in broad chronological frames. Most popular are the rock-monuments (caves that were additionally shaped by human hands, tombs and sanctuaries) that

are situated mostly along the coast between Varna and Shabla.

Unfortunately, their destiny is left to the vagaries of nature forces (earthquakes, landslides off the coast, etc.) and, thus, many of them are already lost for good for the next generations.

The aim of this book is to jog the memory of the rich culture-historical heritage of Dobrudzha, which unfortunately remains endangered. The rock-monuments that will be described and richly illustrated in the book were exploited by people called by the ancient historians Troglodytes (Troglodytae), literally - cave goers.

Troglodytes was not an ethnonym, i.e. a name of a tribe, but an ethnographic description of people that lived in close association with the rock cavities, and developed a specific megalithic culture. It is perfectly logical that the everyday life of the Troglodytes was closely connected with the sea. Thus, this short book reminds this close association between the sea culture and the people from the caves.

The Mysterious Caves, Graves and Altars along the Northern Bulgarian Coast of the Black Sea. The First Explorers

The Czech scholars, the brothers Herman and Karel Schkorpil were the earliest explorers to note the ancient monuments along the western coast of the Black Sea - in the north of Odessus (pres. Varna) and in Dobrudzha. The monuments, which were diligently illustrated with drawings and plans, are situated from Cape Kaliakra to Mangalia (Romania) in the north and in the west - to the present town of Dobrich and its surroundings.

Herman and Karel Schkorpil founded the Bulgarian archaeological science. Their

contribution to the drawing up of the archaeological map of Bulgaria is significant even today. Their diligence in the making of the documentation of the hundreds of archaeological sites they visited is outstanding. Their data is of particular value in respect to those monuments that had been subjected eventually to new destruction, both by man and nature, as they comprise information about remains irrevocably lost for science.

In the remote 1892 the two Schkorpil brothers published a description of Northeastern Bulgaria "in respect to its geography and archaeology" in the Collection of Folklore, Science and Literature. The descriptions of tens of archaeological rock-monuments situated in the so-called "seaside colonies" are of particular interest. The Schkorpil brothers had in mind the seaside colonies of Dobrudzha that started from the Romanian town of Mangalia, and reaching the Cape Kaliakra. Many rock-burials, burials covered with stone slabs, stone altars, menhirs and single man worked caves were noted as early as by that time. All these monuments were situated in the rocky and high Black Sea coast itself. The explorers describe in a greatest detail the dimensions of the sites, as well as names, legends and scarce information about finds. The general conclusion reached by the Czech scholars was that the rock-colonies were much older than the known strongholds along the shore, and should be associated with a larger megalithic culture. (Ill. 2)

During the century passed the archaeological rock-sites described by the Schkorpil brothers were sporadically studied on the background of enhanced interest of historians and archaeologists in the Greek city-colonies, the Thracian fortified places, tomb

necropoleis and settlements along the coast.

The rock-tombs were studied after the Schkorpil brothers in the 80s. According to Peter Delev, certain similarity of the tombs with the megalithic constructions from the Southeastern Thrace was found, which predetermines an early date for the sites.

The archaeological excavations in some tombs situated on the coast between Cape Kaliakra and Cape Tyulenovo offered new data concerning the burial samples and the date of the constructions. It is noted that while the orientation of the tombs from Cape Kaliakra to the Yuailata Locality (the village of Kamen Bryag) is west-east, those of the necropolis of the village of Kamen Bryag are oriented in various directions. According to the explorers this is a proof that the tradition of the tomb building should be sought before the Christianization of the Black Sea coastal lands in the 4th century AD.

On the other hand, it is noted that most of the tombs were looted in ancient times, while the grave goods in some tombs that were spared should be dated in the period between the 3rd and the 5th centuries AD. However, the possibility that these tombs might have been used again much later, have not been taken in account, and it should be stressed that their number and diversity in ancient times had been larger.

What are these tombs like?

Over 130 burial works are differentiated in several necropoleis between cape Kaliakra and the village of Tyulenovo. These were explored by Asen Salkin and Dimitar Toptanov. The explorers defined four major groups:

The first group includes tombs with a shaft-like antechamber that leads to a rectan-

gular entrance to the tomb chamber. (Ill. 3)

The second group includes rock-tombs with a stair-like antechamber that leads to well-shaped tomb chambers. According to the archaeologists these are the most precisely cut burial works. Their chambers show additional cuts like niches, grooves and a stone coach. There is an opening in the top of these chambers that had been closed with a stone slab. It is interesting to note that a tomb was documented in the necropolis near the village of Kamen Bryag with a cut in relief stylized image of a bull's head in its chamber.

The third group of rock works is characterized by cut in the rock pits of wash-tub shape. They are identified as graves.

The explorers of rock-monuments along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast defined one other - fourth - group, the so-called "cave-tombs".

As might be expected, most of the burial works had been robbed as early as in ancient times. However, the archaeologists' luck gave result in the discovery of several tombs that had been spared. They included ceramic vessels dated in the 3rd-4th centuries AD.

The skeletons found indicate that the buried show small percentage of Mediterranean racial signs and absolutely lack Mediterranean gracile features that were characteristic for the Thracians. This would mean that the people who buried their dead was not a local one but had come from elsewhere, as is also proved by the parallels with the tomb architecture from northeast.

Many caves that are spread along the entire rocky seacoast should be added to the tombs that are already popular among the tourists.

Thus, several cave colonies are situated in the south of Cape Shabla. The largest caves

of the so-called Kaluchkyojska Colony are Ovchata Cave, Probitata Cave (Delik Maara). Stulbenata Cave is located in the south of the latter and its reached by climbing eleven cut in the wall steps.

There are many caves in the south of the village of Tyulenovo. They are situated in the rocks, most of them high above the shore and are accessible from the plateau above or from the sea. Halkana Cave is known by the "sixteen cauldrons" intentionally dug in the floor. Mechata Maara is situated in the brink of the sea itself. It is 4m high and 126m long.

The cave "city" of Yuailata is situated near the village of Kamen Bryag. It is distinctive by its spacious caves that were additionally cut to shape by man. (Ill. 4)

A hundred and one caves are mapped only in the area of the so-called Golyama Yuaila. They are situated on several levels in the rocks, and were used for thousands of years. The earliest archaeological artifacts found there date from the fifth millennium BC. The caves were eventually used by the Thracians too.

The village of Bulgarevo is in the south of Kamen Bryag. It is known by the many caves in the area of the tourist's complex of Rousalka (Kakanuk Maara, Chernata Cave, Labirinta, SS Constantine and Elena Church).

George Atanasov is among the eminent and diligent archaeologists that continued the exploration work of the Schkorpil brothers. He noted new details in the usage of the caves along the seashore. For example, over two hundred naturally formed caves are mapped along the coast between Cape Kaliakra and Varna, and over 50 of them had been additionally worked by man.

Well-shaped single caves with smooth walls and ceiling are to be seen. They had once been insulated with wooden screens. These were taken for monk's cells like the ones in the Yuailata Locality near the village of Kamen Bryag. Namely there was recorded a rock-monastery, the eastern part of which is swallowed by the sea. It was used in the epoch of the First Bulgarian Kingdom. (Ill. 5)

By the way, all caves that were additionally worked by man during various epochs find their parallels in the rock-monuments of inner Dobrudzha. Starting from the rock-plateau of the village of Venchan, where many rock-tombs are seen, and reaching the Danube River near Alfatar by a straight line, we frame an area saturated in rock-monuments that are connected by all explorers with the Christian cult and monks-hermits. The truth is that the natural cavities were used as early as during Antiquity.

The Archaeoastronomical research of a rock-cut sanctuary in Yuailata gave interesting information about the archaeological rock-monuments. The research was done by a team led by Kalin Porozhanov, specialist in maritime history and archaeology. (Ill. 6)

The sanctuary is in the northern part of Yuailata, close to the southeastern end of Kamen Bryag. It is situated on a distinct projection with excellent view towards a vast part of the eastern horizon. The smoothed platform with the cut-in rectangular, trapezium-like and oval shallow pits is most characteristic among all preserved deliberately worked in the rock elements, together with the linear and angular incisions of various dimensions and the three-step southeast stairs with three rock-graves at its foot, which main axes show close azimuths to the longitudinal axis of the sanctuary.

The main axis of the sanctuary is directed towards the point of the winter solstice and, according to the archaeoastronomers, refers to the 6th - 5th centuries BC.

The oldest description of such a work reached us thanks to the ancient Greek poet Pindar. He tells us that the Argonauts saw dug into the rocks altar after they reached the shore at the mouth of the Axinian Pont and made a blood sacrifice for successful seafaring. It is accepted that this information from the 5th century BC refers to the grooves and shallow pits in the rocks (natural or dug in by man) that were used as altars in ancient times. We would add it here that some of the man cut-in the rock pits should have been used for water-gathering as well as for the gathering of the blood of the sacrificed animal due to the large volume of the works. That water, however, should have been used for cult purposes, and was probably identified with some deity of the natural forces, like the gods of storm in Asia Minor.

Sent with the breath of the south wind, reached the mouth of the Axinian Pont. There, they [the Argonauts] fenced a sacred area of the Poseidon of the sea; at first appeared a purple herd of bulls of the Thracians and they found the newly built concave stone altar" (Pind. Pyth. IV, 203 -211 , Bowra).

Who built the monuments? The troglodytes among Thracians, Carians, Greeks and Romans.

The stratigraphic analysis of tens of written sources gives an idea, although general, about the historical geography, the diversity of Thracian tribes and the settlement system of the northeastern limits of ancient Thrace. This is not an easy task and it includes the analysis of data from Herodotus' times to the

epoch in which the works of Strabo, Pomponius Mela, Claudius Ptolemaeus, Ammianus Marcellinus and Jordanes became popular.

The northeast lands of ancient Thrace embraced a vast plane areas enclosed by the valleys of the Prut and Seret rivers, the lower course of the Danube River, also including the coastal zone of Pontus (Black Sea). One is impressed by the piled ethnonyms (tribal names) concerning the inhabitants of the zone indicated: Thracians, Carians, Scythes, Getae, Crobizoi, Therizoi or, most generally – Barbarians. The data concerning the Greek enclaves in the city-colonies on the Pontus and their mixed population may be considered in a separate plan. The geographic zone of the Northeast was a contact one for two historical-geographic areas in the Southeast Europe. It was characteristic with the enhanced dynamics of the ethnic processes, reflected most clearly in the fast changes on the historical map of the ethnonyms, evidenced in the literature of the period between the 6th century BC and the 6th century AD.

The picture of the ethnonyms is most clearly elucidated in the mountain of Strandzha and the adjoining coast. Homer knew people living in the lands between Hebros (Maritsa River) and Pontus Euxinus (Black Sea). They bore the general name of Thracians and were allies of Troy. The evidence of the combined data from Homer's times on shows that the term "Thracians" was applied once for the people living in Southeast Thrace and twice for people living in Asia Minor. The unity was broken sometime after the 6th – 5th century BC with the appearance of new ethnonyms on the historical map of Southeast Thrace: Paythi, Apsinthoi, Tynias, and etc. "Thracians" around Salmydessos (pres. Mydia, Turkey).

The Scyrmiares and the Nypsai were known to have lived in the north of the real Strandzha and on its northern slopes. The latter probably reached in their spread as far as East Stara Planina. As a whole, the coast and the mountainous area of Strandzha and East Stara Planina was swallowed by the political presence of the Odrysians.

Going further north along the narrow coastal line between the Hellenic colonies of Tomi (pres. Constanța, Romania) and Cape Tyriss (pres. Cape Kaliakra), where, by the way, was recorded a large group of rock-tombs and sanctuaries, we reach the so-called Carian Harbor (Karon limen). The data is from the time of Pomponius Mela and Arrianus (Arr. Perteg, P. Eux., 35; P. Mela, 2, 22).

The harbor is localized around the present Cape Shabla, and the whole area bore the name of Caria according to the ancient authors. The appearance of the toponym brings forward a series of questions concerning the localization of the Carians on the maps of historical-geography. The Carians were probably the oldest known in the written history inhabitants of the indicated segment of the Black Sea coast. It is only known that there was territory called Caria that was localized in Asia Minor, but the Carians themselves were noted by Homer as being allies to the Trojans together with Lelegians and Pelasgians. (Hom., Ilias, X, 428) The Carians are considered most generally in the modern historical science as a Pre-Hellenic population that bore a name close to the Hittite-Luwian language. According to Herodotus (Hdt, I, 17) the Carians were island people, and they insisted to be the autochthonous dwellers of the continents. It is necessary to note as a whole that their ethno-cultural characteristic

and localization most of all on the isles of Hellas and Asia Minor, connect them to the Thraco-Pelasgian community. Their sea hegemony was famous to and after the mid 8th century BC.

The names of the Thracian tribes that were part of the tribal community of the Getae became known on the coast considered - north of Odessus and Tyriss - after the 8th century BC.

Two-partite names like Geto-Dacians and Thraco-Getae are applied in the scientific literature for the Thracian tribes that inhabited the Dobrudzha Black Sea coast. The assembled name that appeared as early as in the 6th century BC in the works of the ancient Greek historian Hecateus included tribes like the Crobizoi, Therizoi, Matouneti and Myrgetae.

The territory was a contact zone between Thracians Getae and one other people - that of the Scythians.

The active cultural and economic influence of the Hellenic colonies along the coast should not be excluded. The colonization of the western Thracian coast of the Black Sea was the last stage of the Greek colonization of the Black Sea basin. The city of Miletus played specific role in this process. Tomi (pres. Constanța), Istros (pres. Village of Istros, Romania), Odessus (pres. Varna) and Dionysopolis (pres. Balchik) were founded by settlers from there. (Ill. 7)

Callatis (pres. Mangalia) was a colony of the Dorian Greeks.

The origin of Bizone (pres. Kavarna) is not very clear as the sources talk about "mixed population". Colonists from Mesambria settled in Bizone towards the 5th century BC, but even then the population of

the town remained predominantly Thracian. The ancient Bizone was situated on the front narrow part of the plateau of Chirakman, with a total territory of about 30 decares (7.41 acres). (Ill. 9)

The plateau begins in the east of the harbor of Kavarna. It is limited in the south by slopes vertically going into the sea, while in the north it is restricted by the deep "lowland of the shepherd's springs". The earliest Thracian stronghold there dates from the Pre-Hellenistic epoch and had been flanked in its most vulnerable part by a ditch. A Thracian settlement was discovered in the near locality of Adata that had existed throughout the first millennium BC. The explorers of the region also discovered a necropolis of the Thracian population of Bizone. (Ills. 10-11)

As for Tyriss (pres. Kaliakra), we may categorically say that it had been a Thracian town up to the Hellenistic epoch. The name is too old and belongs to the oldest stratum of toponyms, as old as the Bronze Age (3500 - 1200 BC). (Ills. 12-13)

When writing the political history of the Getae that lived along the Pontic coast, we should mention the presence of rulers like Dromichaïtes (late 4th - first decade of the 3rd century BC) and also the collision with the ambitions of many Scythian rulers that mined their coins in the mentioned above towns.

The Roman conquest of the Black Sea coast of the Getae begun with the campaign of the Roman commander Marcus Terentius Lucullus. The territory was included to the province of Moesia (and more precisely - of Lower Moesia), eventually, in the Late Antiquity, it was included to the territory of the province of Little Scythia.

THE TROGLODYTES

“... The lands down on both sides of Meroe, along Nile to the Red Sea are inhabited by Megabarians and Blemians that are subjected to the Ethiopians, and are neighbors of the Egyptians; around the sea live Troglodytes, and the Troglodytes that live opposite to Meroe are on ten or twelve days traveling from Nile. On the left side of the course of Nile, in Libya, live the Nubians, a numerous people, starting from Meroe as far as the windings; they are not subjected to the Ethiopians, they rule themselves and are divided in many kingdoms ... That is what Eratosthenes says.” (Strab. 17-2 (description of Libya after Eratosthenes))

“... After the Scordiscians along Istros are the lands of the Triballians and the Moesians that we mentioned, as well as the marshlands of the so-called Little Scythia on this side of Istros, we mentioned them too. The tribes particularized like the Crobizoi, and the known as Troglodytes live above the places at Callatis, Tomi and Istros...” (Strab. 7-5-12)

The abundant literature data from ancient times give opportunity for an additional analysis of the ethnic and ethnographic characteristic of the population that lived along the western coast of the Black Sea. The appearance of information from the 2nd century AD is an example in this direction. It concerns the tribe of the Troglodytes – a tribal group or a tribal form byword.

The Troglodytes were mentioned for the first time in ancient Thrace by the Greek historian and geographer Strabo in the Book 7 of his Geography (Strab. 7-5-12). They were localized in general plan together with the Thracian tribe of Crobizoi “above the places at Callatis, Tomi and Istros”. The geographic

notes are probably based on earlier literature evidence. It is accepted that Strabo had used for the compilation of his work parts from works of a broad circle of authors, among whom: Herodotus, Thucydides, Eudoxus, Aristotle, Anaximenes, Theopompus, Artemidorus, Poseidon, etc. Having in mind that up to the 5th century BC the Crobizoi are known thanks to Herodotus as people that lived in the lands between Yastris and Artanes (the present rivers of Osum and Iskar), we may assume that the evidence to which refers Strabo date from the century to follow, when certain migration probably started among the tribes in the north of Haemus (Stara Planina).

The Troglodytes were also known to Claudius Ptolemaus, and their location is given in his popular work Geography from the second half of the 2nd century AD (Cl. Ptolemae., III, 10.4). They are evidenced in the so-called Ninth Map of Europe, composed by Ptolemaus in the 2nd century AD and edited in various map versions in West Europe up to the end of the 20th century. Most generally, they occupied the territory in the north of Odessus to the Istros delta, in the neighborhood of the towns of Tomi, Istros and Axium. (Ill. 14)

Describing the geographical situation of Lower Moesia, Ptolemaus notes that the western parts of the province is inhabited by the Triballians, while the eastern parts were occupied by the Troglodytes, the Peucines, by those that lived at the mouth of the river of Iskar, as well as by a group of tribes like the Crobizoi, who, according to the geographer, inhabited the Pontic coast.

From the end of the 4th century AD the Troglodytes were localized together with

the Peucines and other smaller tribes around the Isle of Peuca (an island in the southern part of the Danube delta?). The evidence is of Ammianus Marcellinus and concerns the geographic description of the lands around the Pontus. It was composed on the basis of literature evidence both by earlier authors and by direct impression from the Roman provinces on the Balkans. (Amm. Marc. XXII, 8, 43-48). Marcellinus added that the mentioned coast is abundant of harbor.

The interest in the Thracian antiquity, and particularly in the coastal lands of Thrace, started with the evidence given by the ancient authors and they find their place in single cartographic materials from the period between the 14th and the 19th centuries in West Europe. As a whole, they "accumulate" rich information about the orography of the Thracian lands and maintain the interest of the western scholars in the scarcely known, but attractive for travelers and diplomats, coastal areas of the Balkans.

The earliest map after Ptolemaeus that notes the Troglodytes is the Ninth Map of Europe, edited in Rome in 1478 by Jacob Angelo on the basis of the map of Ptolemaeus. The map embraces the northern and central parts of the Balkan Peninsula. It shows the districts of Upper and Lower Moesia, as well as those of Dardania, Dacia, Thrace and Macedonia. Several ancient towns along the Danube, the Black Sea coast and the hinterland are also indicated. (Ill. 15)

After Jacob Angelo, the Troglodytes acquired popularity in the Map of Ancient Dacia and Moesia by Abraham Ortelius. Ortelius himself deserved special attention as he was one of the most famed representatives of the Dutch geography and cartography in 16th

century. It is supposed that he established the fundamentals of the modern cartography together with Gerardus Mercator. (Ill. 16)

The map by Abraham Ortelius was made in 1595 and was later included in the Addendum of an Atlas edited in that same year, and accepted as the first European historical atlas. The Troglodytes are presented on this map as a part of the Getae, in the north from the territory inhabited by Carians and Crobizoi, and in the south of the lands of the Peucines.

In 1652 Philipp Cluver (Philippus Cluverius) published in Leiden, Netherlands, his work Introduction in the General Geography of the Old and New World. It contains a map of Thrace with descriptions. The Troglodytes are noted to have lived in the lands in the north of Naxius River and in the west of Istropolis (ancient Istria) but close to the seashore. (Ill. 17)

The map by Jacob von Sandrart, a German cartographer who worked in Nuremberg, was edited in 1683. It covers the course of the Danube River and the adjoining countries. Apart from the massifs of Haemus and of Rhodopes, the map notes the Thracian tribes of Triballians, Getae and Troglodytes (trogloditae).

The noting of the cave goes along the present Bulgarian northern Black Sea coast was probably influenced by the Late Medieval copies of the Ninth Map of Europe, drawn in the 2nd century AD by Claudius Ptolemaeus. In the map by Sandrart the Troglodytes (troglytae) are noted in an area saturated with low mountainous hills in the inner lands of present Dobrudzha. (Ill. 18)

Who were the Troglodytes? These were mythological human-like beings that were

believed to be living in caves and holes. The word is also used for animals that live underground. The name is related to the Latin form *Trogloditae*, a race of people that were believed to be living in caves, and which came from the Greek word according to some scholars. The first part of the Greek word means hole and the second – enter, penetrate.

Wilhelm Tomashek, the founder of Thracology as a science, believed that the Troglodytes lived in Little Scythia, near to Halmiris. According to him ground dwellings covered with reeds and dung are still to be found along the Lower Danube and in Armenia. The scholar thought that the Troglodytes lived in caves in the rocks.

According to Ivan Venedikov, the name is close to the Greek word for “dug-out”. The Author connects the Troglodytes with tribes related to the Coilalletians. George Katsarov added that they had underground dwellings like the Frizes and the ancient Armenians. Other explorers like Hristo Danov and Boris Gerov accept it as a name of the cave goers. By the way, caves are in abundance along the coast in the north of Cape Kaliakra (ancient Tyrissis). The localization of the Troglodytes responds most precisely to the hundreds of rock caves, rock-tomb necropoleis and sanctuaries on the Black Sea coast itself, as well as in the inner Dobrudzha.

As I already mentioned, the typologically described rock sites in Dobrudzha may be divided in: caves for long-term dwelling, caves for cult purposes, rock tombs and sanctuaries, stone circles, menhirs (?), rock pits for storage of food and ship and harbor implements.

Unfortunately, the devastating power of the sea and the environmental factors had

destroyed large part of the sites. In many places, where the coast constitutes of Karst in Sarmatian limestones, the percentage of destruction reaches 30-50%. The close-meshed net of settlements, localized at the very seashore and very closely associated with rock constructions, still waits to be studied.

The problems born by the written and archaeological evidence concerning the Troglodytes in ancient Thrace may be summarized in several items.

In the first place, it is necessary to underline that the Troglodytes who inhabited in ancient times the Bulgarian Black Sea coast bore that name not as an ethnonym. They belonged ethnically to local, probably Thracian, tribes. They took advantage of the favorable geological conditions to create spaces in the rocks both for dwelling and for cult, funeral and economic activities.

The name had become a byword taking into account the peculiarities of the everyday life and the settlement system in the coastal part in the north of Odessus. As felicitously noted by Atanas Orachov, the coastal population developed a specific type of culture that was based on certain organization, which differed from that characteristic of their neighbors. The term (cave goers, underground people) is added to the common assembly of bywords, “labels” in Thrace like: Scythian-farmers, Scythian-Hellenes, Barbarians, Thracians-Semi-Scythians, and in a broader geographical plan – mountainous, independent Thracians.

The most general localization of the Troglodytes in the north of Odessus, to the Istros delta, places them in the frames of the political and cultural influence of the Getae, an ethnonym that dominates in the historical

geography of Southeast Thrace up to Late Antiquity. More, the application of the term itself had probably mythological intention, having in mind the warship of the Getae towards the chthonic cult of Zalmoxis, recorded by Strabo too.

The appearance of the name of Troglodytes in the written sources dating from the period between the 2nd and the 4th centuries AD marks just a moment in the development of a specific settlement and cult system at the present Bulgarian Black Sea coast and in certain areas of the inner lands of Northeast Thrace. The similarity between some of the rock constructions and other already studied complexes in the Southeast Thrace suggest synchronic development of the Troglodyte monuments and of those included in the circle of the so-called megalithic culture.

It is archaeologically proved that the coast was actively inhabited during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Ages, the time period in which megalithic monuments were built most appreciably in Thrace.

The archaeological sites from the early first millennium BC were certainly related to the Carians – most probably part of the oldest population of the indicated segment of the Black Sea coast – that appear in the written sources.

On the other hand the presence of the Carians in the coastal lands, although episodically and unproven, contributes to the complex and dynamic ethnic picture in the zone where the megalithic monuments are spread. In other words, the megalithic culture in Thrace falls in the so-called Thraco-Phrygian or ethno-cultural zone, and the spread of specific sites along the coast may be explained with the penetration of cultural influ-

ences by the sea-routes in the north of Asia Minor, in the west and south from Caucasus and Crimea.

The question concerning the late date of some tomb constructions and caves in the inner lands of Dobrudzha remains still with no answer. It is known that the tradition of the usage of the rocks for cult and economic purposes continued during mediaeval times too.

If we assume that the first Thracian Troglodyte complexes appeared sometime during the first millennium BC, and continued to develop until the Late Antiquity, the recorded rock-monasteries along the coast and in the inner lands mark one other aspect of the Troglodyte tradition in our lands. From chronological point of view, the usage of rock cavities as a dwelling place and for cult purposes in the present northeastern Bulgarian lands should be dated in a broad time-range – from Prehistoric to Mediaeval times.

Co-existence of cultures – sea and megalithic. Seafaring and harbors.

What does Troglodyte mean? I already mentioned that the term is Greek and was used to name the dweller of a cavity that was made by man. The history of the Troglodytes in the present Bulgarian lands started as early as in the dawn of the human civilization when the people found shelter in natural cavities – caves. During the first millennium BC the Thracians took advantage of the favorable geological conditions (rocks that are easy for work but do not crumble) and created a space both for living and for other activities – cult, funeral, defensive and economic. Being so close to the sea, the Troglodyte monuments were related to the maritime culture of the coastal Thracian population, as well

as to the megalithic culture of the people of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea basins, where many monuments were built.

The maritime culture and history of Thrace and of the Thracians along the Black Sea coast is briefly called *Thracia Pontica* or *Thracia Maritima* by the historians.

Judging by the short written evidence by the ancient Greek historians, the notion of the Thracian seafaring existed as early as in the oldest of the myths. It is enough to remember the myth about the Golden Fleece and the associated with it campaign of the Argonauts. The story told by Apollonius of Rhodes concerns events that happened in the late second - early first millennia BC. By the way, an object that reminds of a golden fleece, or symbolizing it at least, was found in the waters at Cape Kaliakra (ancient Tyris). It is trapezium in shape with elongated ends and arc-bent walls, 25cm long and 12cm wide. It is an alloy of 32% gold, 18% silver, 43% copper and small amounts of sulphur and nickel. Its shape reminds of the known copper ingots from the Eastern Black Sea. The object is being related to representations of similar ingots from Tel El-Amarna, from the time of Pharaoh Amenhotep IV of XVIII dynasty (1580-1324 BC).

The archaeologists dated the ingot in the second half of the second millennium BC. (Ill. 19)

The stone anchors with holes (over 150 are stored in museum collections) come from the same time. The petrographic analyses indicate that most of them were produced locally by local rock material. The specialists of maritime archaeology claim that these big stone anchors were used in ships with up to 300 tons displacement. By the way, this is the

place to specify that the anchors in question served in row-sailing ships, in contrast to the stone and lead stocks that are found in deeper waters. The data concerns the ships used at the end of the Bronze Age. (Ills. 20-21)

It is known, for example, that 139 out of 150 stone anchors found along our Black Sea coast were made of local rock material. Two production areas or workshops are differentiated: northern and southern. The northern one is situated between Cape Kaliakra and Cape Shabla. The predominance of anchors with one hole is characteristic for it. (Ills. 22-23)

According to Kalin Porozhanov, it is obvious that the stone anchors were locally produced, and this means that they were made and used by local seafarers for the necessities of the local ships. Yuailata Locality was one of the places for anchor production.

An anchor with three holes was recently found in the north of Cape Kaliakra, between the bay of the Bolata Locality and the holiday village of Rousalka. It is a proof of the existence of harbors and coastwise navigation as early as in the second millennium BC.

It becomes clear from the ancient harbors studied and mapped so far that the stone anchors are to be found in regions separate from those that yield stone and lead stocks. (Ill. 24) According to Kalin Porozhanov, this is an indication that the anchoring places for the ships with wooden anchors (with stone and lead stocks) were different from the anchoring places used by the ships with stone anchors. The latter ships entered the bays and berthed almost at the shore itself. This would have been possible if only they had been row-sailing ships. In contrast to them, the ships with wooden anchors (with stone and lead

stocks) had to anchor in open spaces. They were mostly sailing ships and depended just on the power of the wind rather than on the rowers.

It is known that row-sailing were the ships from the time of the Cretan-Mycenean civilization. They had a rectangular sail but the major moving force was that of the many rowers. The ships were used both in war and in trade. It is assumed that their anchors were of stone only.

And here arises the next question in relation to the ancient seafaring.

It is known that the quantity of stone anchors from the Bulgarian Black Sea coast is large. It is not clear how many undiscovered lay still underwater. Who needed such a big fleet, asks the explorer of Maritime Thrace Kalin Porozhanov? This would have been possible if the ancient Hellenes had peaceful contacts with the rich Thracian lands.

The circumstance that the stone anchors were found concentrated in several bays indicates that the latter had been well-known to the seafarers of that epoch. It is clear that the seafaring would not have been possible without shores and people who inhabited them, and who needed sea contacts. Both the archaeological exploration and the toponym data evidence to the existence along the western coasts of the Black Sea of active in respect of the seafaring population long-time before the Greek colonization.

The sea swallows history. The ancient historians tell ...

The drowned settlements

"... It will be better, anyway, if our story is connected with the more obvious and observed things. Because the floods and the earthquakes, and the volcanic eruptions, and

the elevations of the sea bottom rise the sea, while the decrease lower it. Because not only pieces of iron and small islands may come to the surface, even not just islands, but continental areas too. In the same way, the landslides may be minor and large, if the unfathomed deep swallows regions and settlements as it happened, they say, both during storms and in Bizone, and in any other places as a result of an earthquake..." (Strab. I.3, 10. Geography)

And again Strabo wrote that Bizone was situated between Callatis and Apollonia and that the larger portion of it was ruined by earthquakes. (Strab. VII, 6, 1)

The Roman historian Pomponius Mela (c. AD 44) also mentions the destruction of Bizone by an earthquake.

It is already clear today that the ancient Bizone drowned as a result of an earthquake sometime in the late 1st century BC. The ancient Greek historiographer Flavius Arrianus mentions in his Description (Periplus) of the Pontus Euxinus almost two centuries later that Bizone was a "desolated place". (Arr. 24, 116)

Here is the place to ask what exactly happened in the past on the territory inhabited by the Troglodytes, and more precisely, what happened with its coastal part?

About 90% of the territory of the Troglodytes was plateau-like (150-200m above the sea level) with canyon-like intersections. There is a slightly indented flat land (80-150m above the sea level) in the north of the Durankulak Lake.

Spacious lands of the Bulgarian Black Sea coast show active processes of landslides. The Dobrudzha region of landslides is characterized with high seismic activity, which mani-

fects intensities of 9th - 10th degree in the segment Shabla-Kaliakra-Kavarna.

Powerful and catastrophic earthquakes were recorded in the past. The geologists connect with them the large lineal block landslides at Yailata, Taukliman, Balchik and Kaliakra.

The geological research established that in the period between the third millennium BC and the 5th century BC the Black Sea coast had been stable on a constant level. After the 5th century BC, however, the seashore had been subjected to a transgression that obviously continues to present day. It is assumed that annually the sea swallows 1 to 4mm of the seashore (about 3m at the Kerch Strait, 4m in the area of ancient Phanagoria on Crimea, 9m go in the coastal waters of Caucasus for the last 3000 years). The seashore, together with all the elements of the settlement system, lost along the southern Bulgarian Black Sea coast is estimated to be about 9m. Such, and even more complicated, is the situation in the north of Odessus (Varna) due to the structure of the coastal rocks.

There was a series of harbor centers along the entire coast in the period between the second half of the second millennium BC to the Late Antiquity (4th century AD). This is an evidence of the regressive character in the sea fluctuation. Manmade piers and reefs had remained from them, which were used in particular times as harbors too. The depths at which they are discovered also contribute to the evaluation of the changes in the level of Black Sea. The harbors that functioned sometime in mid second millennium BC (Late Bronze Age) were at Cape Shabla (Karon Limen), Cape Kaliakra (Tyrizis), the north harbor of Mesambria, Apollonia, Maslen Nos

(Terra) and the north one of Urdoviza. The depth of the recorded constructions and the natural breakwaters, measured from the surface of the sea to their highest parts, vary from 4 to 10m. It is clear that some of them were above the water surface, while others, mostly the natural ones, were at the surface of the sea or slightly deeper. For example, the depth of the 400m long reef-harbor at Cape Shabla is 4 m, at Sozopol - 10m, at Maslen Nos - 8-10m, and etc.

We have more information about the Antiquity and the picture is much more representative. Harbors were discovered at Bizone (two at depth of 6-9m), Dionysopolis (at Lazuren Bryag and Cape Galata - 2-2.5m), Mesambria (the south harbor - 7m), at Kirik Isle (1.5 - 3.5m), Gatta and Millos (10m), Udoviza, the mouth of Ropotamo River, etc. Drawned fortification systems and quarters were discovered at the ancient Kranea (pres. Village of Kranevo) and Mesambria (5m). All construction listed were built after the 6th century BC and ceased to function sometime towards the 4th century AD. The conclusion that imposes itself is that the sea level started to rise from the Late Antiquity. It is connected with the Nymphaean transgression that caused the flooding of the harbors and parts of the ancient towns along the Bulgarian northern coast of the Black Sea. The level then exceeded the present level of the sea with 1 - 2m.

Here are several concrete examples from the Bulgarian north coast of the Black Sea:

It is supposed that the northern part of the Bay of Krapets had been dry land, and that it flanked one very comfortable harbor for loading and unloading activities.

The seashore at Cape Shabla is almost

a straight north-south band. Everyone that understands a little of sea and seafaring will see that there are no places for a harbor in the region in the north of the village of Tyulenovo up to Mangalia. However, thanks to the underwater exploration by archaeologists, it became clear that a large reef flanks a big space near the present town of Shabla, and more precisely - at Cape Shabla. (Ill. 25-27). It is most probable that this reef had protruded above the waters and had guarded a harbor from the eastern winds. Namely around such a place were found a lot of anchors. The excavations on the shore revealed a storage house for amphorae that had served the ancient harbor. Many ceramic vessels (fish dishes and amphorae) were found by the archaeologists before the walls of the stronghold and on the beach. They witness to the everyday life of the ancient settlement.

The typological analysis of the amphorae discovered by the underwater exploration of the bays of Kavarna, at Cape Kaliakra and Yuailata show that the Greek amphorae came from Chios, Thasos, Sinope, Heraclea, Knid, Rhodos and Knosk. (Ills. 28-29-30)

Yuailata Locality is a large terrace, situated on 10-15m above the sea level and almost as much below the continental level. As could be expected, the aquatory here is open to the stormy winds, and it does not present any qualities for establishing a harbor today. The tourists today use a small harbor in the northern part of Yuailata. Two stone anchors were found there deep in the sea, while two embedded in the ground stones each with a horizontally drilled hole were discovered on the seashore. (Ill. 31)

The situation at Kaliakra is different. The long and high rocky cape is situated

in north-south from the continent towards the sea. The stone anchors found define an anchoring place on the west side of the cape, close to the shore. The divers found them at depths reaching 10m. The Kaliakra ox-hide ingot was also found there.

The Kavarna bay is in the west of Cape Kaliakra. It is protected from the winds from almost all sides. The underwater exploration of the bay of Kavarna showed that part of it had been dry land during the first millennium BC. For now, geologists, geomorphologists and sedimentologists think that the Black Sea coast of Dobrudzha had suffered strong local transgressive and regressive phenomena.

The big ancient town of Dionysopolis (pres. Balchik) together with some other significant town centers in the area of the western coast of the Black Sea suffered serious damages about the mid 4th century as a result of a powerful undersea earthquake and the inflowing Black Sea flooding up to four Roman miles of dry land. (Ill. 32)

The tragedy that had stricken the poleis on the western coast of the Black Sea, including Odessus, was witnessed by the Early Byzantine chronograph Theophanes.

To preserve the culture of the Troglodytes

The troglodyte tradition as an original form of living and of architecture presents a part of full value of the diversity of the world culture: the temple-tombs in Petra (Jordan), the Buda monasteries and temples in Ajanta and Ellora in India, the Guadix caves (Spanish Andalusia), the lowlands of Bamian (Afghanistan), the settlements of Matmatah (Tunisia), the Monsanto settlement in Portugal and the Rochenienier (France).

The Troglodyte heritage in Southeast Europe includes a large number of monuments, among which we should point out the megaliths that are in the category of the endangered monuments. It is interesting that some of the more important Troglodyte sites along the Mediterranean are included in the List of the World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO; many other – like the Bulgarian ones – still wait to be evaluated and saved of destruction.

The Troglodyte heritage of ancient Thrace is little known and, unfortunately, little has survived to present day from the heritage of the so-called cave goers. The coast along which the present day archaeologists reveal rock-monuments is being systematically ruined by the sea and natural cataclysms. The first more serious recorded calamities along the Pontic coast were noted in the literature of the second half of the first millennium BC. It is assumed that the sea had swallowed then a significant part of the dry land of various coastal areas. (Ills. 33-34-35)

The modern scientific community will be faced with the task to analyze the situation and to see how the rock-monuments inscribe in the general geographic landscape of the Thracian lands and what the mechanisms to their preservation are.

As a matter of fact, the monuments of the cave goers that have survived to present day are among the most attractive ancient ar-

chaeological monuments in present day Bulgaria. In the first place they compete successfully with the so-called megalith monuments of the East Rhodopes, and in the second, they are made in an eternal material or in an eternal rock.

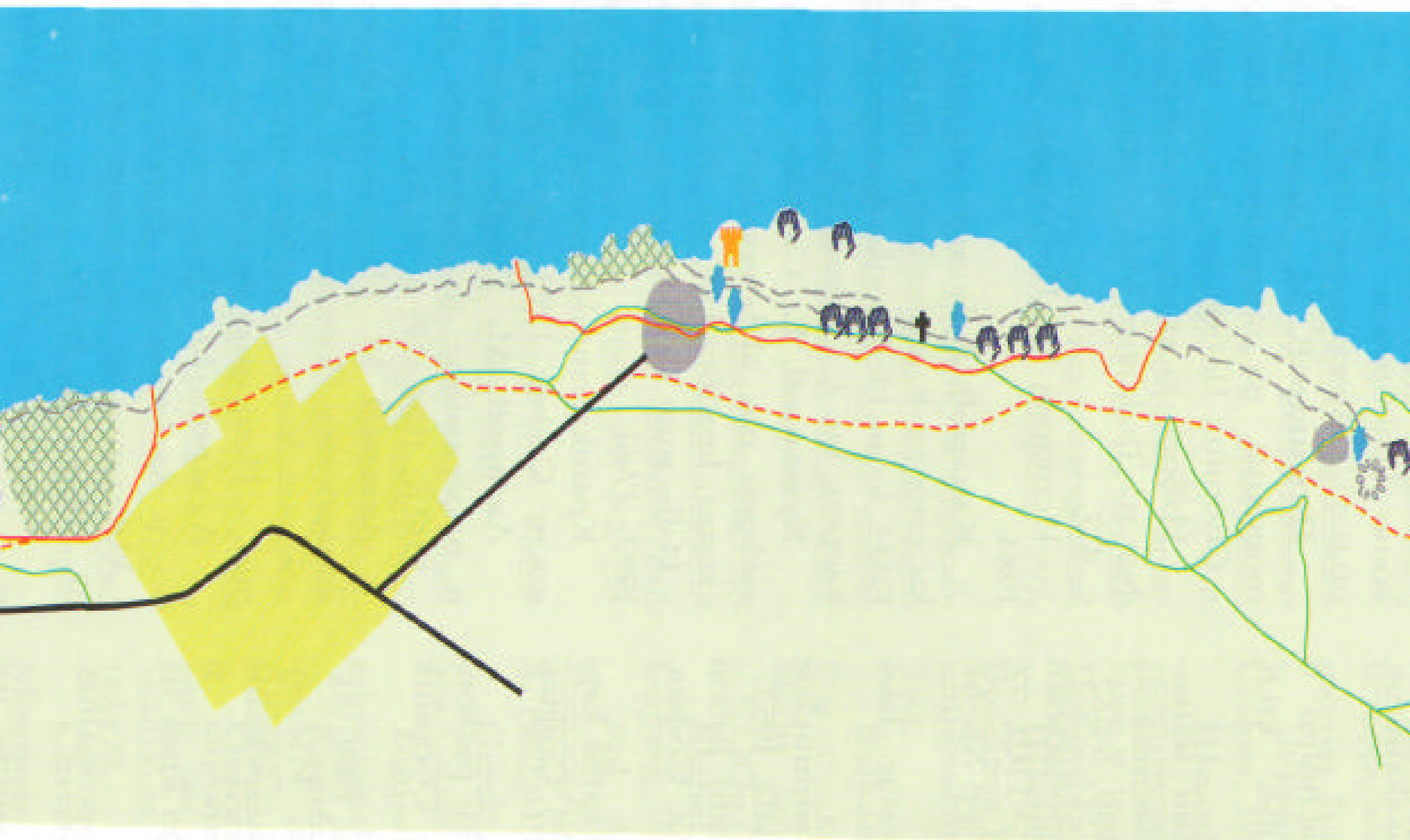
The first steps toward the preservation of the Troglodyte heritage were made as late as in 1989, when the ancient monuments in Yuailata Locality were given status of National Archaeological Reservation, embracing about 300 decares (74.10 acres). A project is made under the FARR Program of the European Union for “tourist” attraction and developed accessible infrastructure” to the site. (Ill. 36)

However, Yuailata is just one example. Tenth of sites with concentrations of interesting and attractive rock archaeological sites remain. These zones penetrate into the inner lands of Dobrudzha.














In my opinion there is something common in the destiny of the already described rock archaeological monuments that appeared in the lands of the cave goers and a small natural phenomenon called “the eternal small fire” by the inhabitants of the village of Kamen Bryag. If the rock from which an easily flammable natural gas is leaking goes underwater, this will lead that tens of caves and rock monuments will be lost for ever, which you will be able to see in the end of this book.

АРХЕОЛОГИЧЕСКИ РЕЗЕРВАТ "ЯЙЛАТА"

"YAILATA" ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESERVE



Легенда Legend

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  с. Камен бряг
Village of Kamen Bryag |  Ранновизантийска крепост
Early East Roman fortress |  Скална църква
Rock church |
|  Граници на резервата
Boundary of the reserve |  Некрополи от скални гробници
Cemeteries of rocky tombs (funeral chambers) |  Антични и средновековни селища
Antique and medieval settlements (villages) |
|  Граници на буферната зона
Boundary of the buffer zone |  Винарни
Wine cellar (wine presses) |  Каменни кръгове
Man-made stone circles |
|  Главен път
Main road |  Пещери-жиашица
Cave-dwellings | |
|  Черен път
Dirt road |  Скални тераси и отвеси
Rock terraces and cliffs | |

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ТАЙНСТВЕНИТЕ ПЕЩЕРИ, ГРОБОВЕ И ЖЕРТВЕНИЦИ ПО БЪЛГАРСКОТО СЕВЕРНО ЧЕРНОМОРИЕ. ПЪРВИТЕ ИЗСЛЕДОВАТЕЛИ

Най-ранното отбелязване на старините по Западното Черноморие на север от Одесос (Варна) и Добруджа дължим на чешките учени, братята Херман и Карел Шкорпил. Паметниците, грижливо онагледени с чертежи и планове, са регистрирани на север от нос Калиакра до Мангалия (Румъния), на запад до днешен Добрич и околностите.

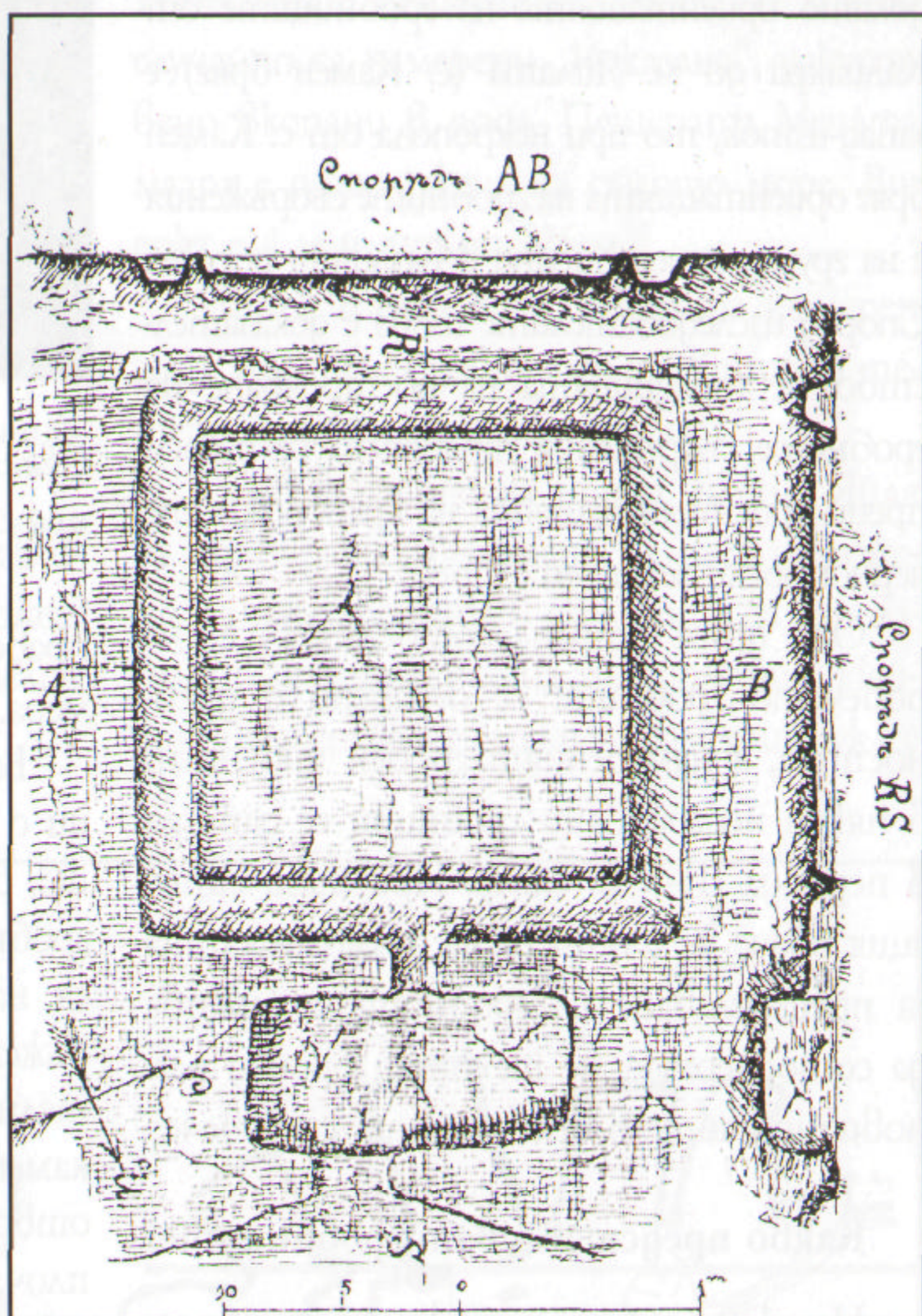
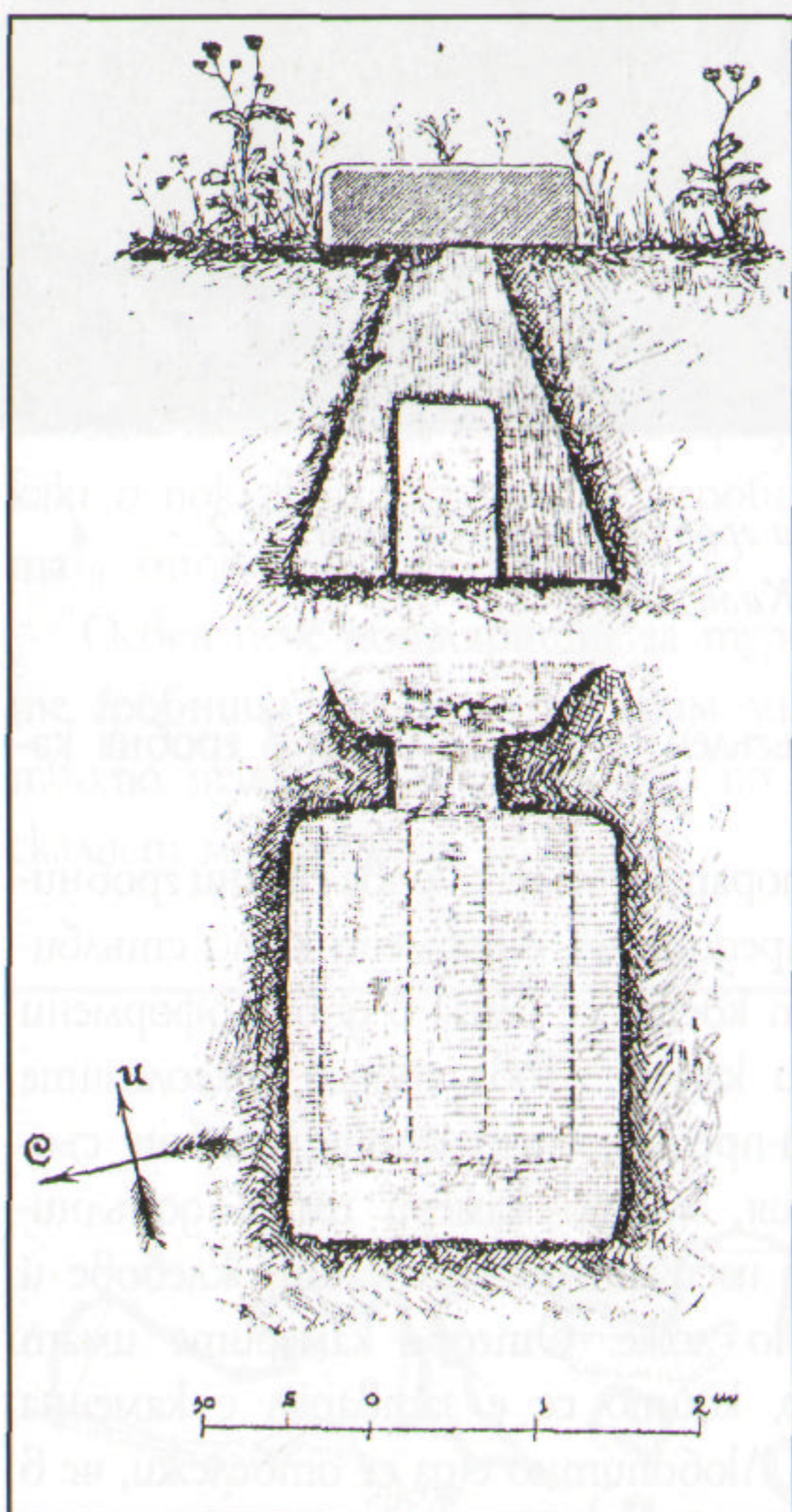
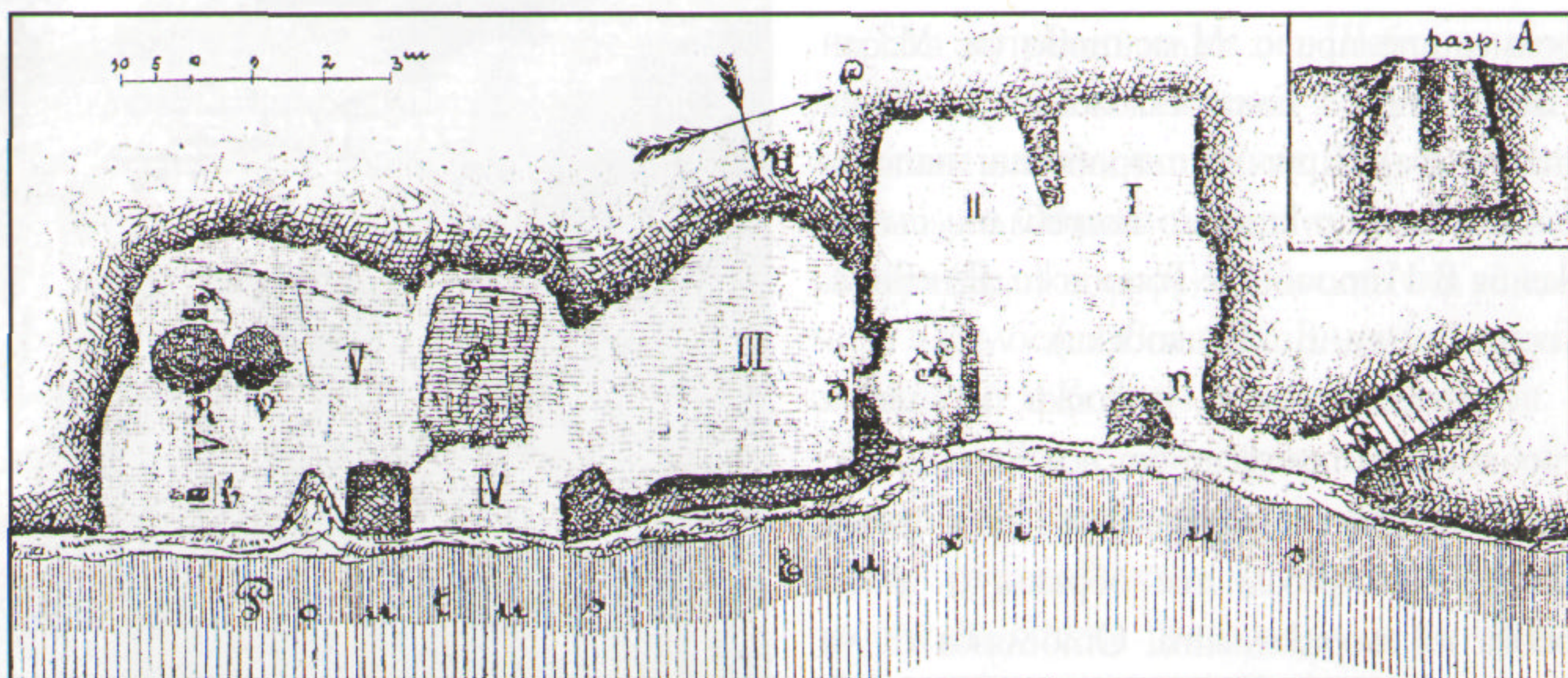
Херман и Карел Шкорпил са основоположници на българската археологическа наука. И до днес е забележителен приносът им за изготвяне на археологическа карта на България. Добросъвестността им е изключителна при съставянето на документацията на стотиците посетени от тях археологически обекти. За много от тези обекти, претърпели впоследствие нови разрушения от хората и природата, сведенията им са особено ценни, тъй като съдържат информация за безвъзвратно загубени за науката останки.

През далечната 1892 година двамата братя Шкорпил публикуват в Сборника за народни умотворения, наука и книжнина описание на Североизточна България „в географско и археологическо отноше-

ние”. Особено интересни са описанията на десетки скални археологически паметници, разположени в т.нар. ”крайморски колонии”. Братя Шкорпил имат предвид добруджанските морски колонии, започващи от южните покрайнини на румънския град Мангалия и стигащи до нос Калиакра. Още тогава са забелязани множество скални гробове, гробове, покрити с каменни плочи, жертвени камъни, менхири, отделни изкуствено обработени пещери. Всички тези паметници са разположени в самия скалист и висок бряг на Черноморското крайбрежие. Изследователите описват с най-малка подробност размерите на обектите, наименования, легенди, свързани с тях, и оскъдната информация за намерени находки. Общият извод, до който стигат чешките учени, е, че скалните колонии са много по-стари от известните крепости, разположени по брега, и се свързват с една голяма мегалитна култура.

През изминалото столетие археологическите скални обекти, които описват братя Шкорпил, са проучвани епизодично на фона на засилен интерес на историци и археолози към гръцките градове-колонии, тракийските укрепителни места, могили, некрополи и селища по крайбрежието.

След братя Шкорпил скалните гробници са изследвани и дискутирани през 80-те години. Според Петър Делев е забелязано известно сходство на гробниците с мегалитните съоръжения от Югоизточна Тракия, което предопределя една ранна датировка на обектите. Така например конструкцията на някои изсечени гробници при с. Камен бряг силно наподобява тази от домените в Сакар планина и някои паметници от Прованс. Паралели могат да се посочат с



Рисунки от братя Шкорниа на скални паметници

манище (Karon limen). Сведенията са от времето на П. Мела и Ариан. (Arr . Perteg, P. Eux.,35; P. Mela, 2, 22.)

Пристанището се локализира около днешния нос Шабла, а цялата област носи името Кария според цитираните антични автори. Появата на топонима поставя редица въпроси, свързани с локализацията на карите в историческата география. Вероятно карите са най-старото население, известно в писаната история в посочената отсечка на черноморския бряг. Известно е, че област с името Кария се локализира и в Мала Азия, а самите кари са отбелязани от Омир като съюзници на троянците заедно с лелеги и пеласги. (Hom., Ilas, X, 428.) Най-общо в съвременната историческа наука карите са разгледани като пределинско население с име, близко до хетолувийския език. Според Херодот (Hdt, I, 17) карите са островни жители и както самите те твърдели – автохтонни обитатели на континента. Като цяло е необходимо да се отбележи, че етнокултурната им характеристика и локализацията им преди всичко по островите на Елада и Мала Азия ги свързват с трако-пеласгийската общност. Тяхната морска хегемония е известна до и след средата на VIII в. пр.Хр.

След VIII в. пр.Хр. в разглежданата брегова ивица северно от Одесос и Туризис стават известни имената на тракийските племена, влизащи в състава на гетската племенна общност.

В научната литература за тракийските племена, населявали Добруджанското Черноморско крайбрежие, се употребяват двусъставни названия като гето-даки и трако-гети. Сборното наимено-



Карта на гръцки колонии по Западното Черноморие

вание, появило се още през VI в. пр.Хр у старогръцкия историк Хекатей, включва племена като кробизи, теризи, матунети и миргети.

Територията е контактна зона между траките гети и друг народ, този на скитите.

Не бива да пропускаме и активното културно и икономическо влияние на елинските колонии по брега. Колонизирането на западния, тракийски бряг на Черно море е последният етап от гръцката колонизация на Черноморския басейн. Особена роля в този процес играе малоазийският град Милет. Негови преселници създават Истрос (дн. с. Истрос), Томи (дн. Констанца, Румания), Одесос (Варна), Дионосополис (Балчик).

литературни данни както от предишни автори, така и преки впечатления от римските провинции на Балканите (Амм, Марс. XXII, 8, 43-48). Марцелин добавя, че споменатото крайбрежие е изобилстващо от пристанища.

След сведенията на античните автори интересът към тракийската древност и в частност крайбрежните области на Тракия възниква в някои единични картографски материали от периода XV-XIX век в Западна Европа. Като цяло те „акумулират“ обилна информация за орографията на тракийските земи и поддържат интереса на западноевропейските учени към слабо познатите, но примамливи за пътешественици и дипломати крайбрежни области на Балканите.

Певтингеровата карта („Девета Европейска карта” - 1478 г.)

Централен държавен архив

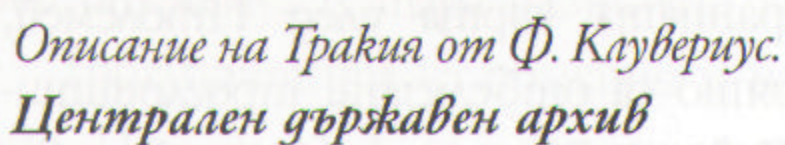


*Карта на Древна Дакия и Мизия
от Абрахам Ортелиус.*

Централен държавен архив

Най-ранната карта след Птолемей, върху която са отбелязани троглодитите, е „Девета Европейска карта”, издадена въз основа на Птолемеевата карта в Рим през 1478 г. от Якоб Анджели. Картата обхваща северните и централните части на Балканския полуостров. Отбелязани са областите Горна и Долна Мизия, Дардания, Дакия, Тракия и Македония. Посочени са редица антични градове по р. Дунав, Черноморското крайбрежие и вътрешността.

След Якоб Анджели троглодитите придобиват популярност в „Карта



Картата на Абрахам Ортелиус е изработена през 1595 г. и по-късно е включена в приложението към атлас от същата

Паралелно със съставянето на изброените до тук карти, земите на Древна Тракия са преминавани от голям брой пътешественици, които оставят кратки бележки за географията, археологическите паметници в крайморската зона и бита на техните обитатели. Началото на систематизиране на тази информация е поставено, поради което тук ще се

спрем само на отделни примери, които имат връзка с разглежданата тема за светилищата.

Едно от ранните споменавания на тракийски култови места е от английски анонимен пътешественик от 1794 година. Пътешественикът, вероятно посланик на Англия при Високата порта, описва много крепости в Странджа планина между селищата Факия и Кирклеси. Много от тези огромни укрепления пътешественикът счита, че “наподобяват друидски храмове” и напомнят изцяло известния мегалитен комплекс Стоунхендж по размери и площ.

Шест години по-късно отново в Югоизточна Тракия са описани “Светилища и олтари” от известния пътешественик, археолог и минералог Едуард Д. Кларк. Сведенията се отнасят за района на Тракийския Босфор.

Интересът на западноевропейските пътешественици към старините в близост до морето е затвърден през 20-те години на XIX век. Така например през 1829 г. С. Сейже, цитирайки наблюденията на турския географ Хаджи Калфа, припомня за наличието на скални обекти (изсечени в скалните жилища и сводове) в “град на троглодитите” в едно от южните разклонения на Странджа. Френският пътешественик изрично споменава, че цитира Хаджи Калфа, за да “подтикне някой бъдещ пътешественик да започне проучване в Странджа”.

За щастие малко по-подробни сведения за “скалния град” публикува Фердинанд фон Хохщетер, описвайки своите наблюдения от лятото на 1829 г. Пътувайки в днешната турска част на



Дунав - Главна река на Европа (фрагмент) от Якоб фон Зандарт.

Централен държавен архив

Странджа, пътешественикът забелязва в околностите на Кирк-клисе (дн. Лозенград) скални ниши, жертвеници, издълбани в скалите, “малък амфитеатър”, изкуствено издълбани тераси и стълби. Подобни скални изсичания авторът е открил и в околностите на Инджийс (северно от Чаталджа) и при село Татаркьою (северно от Одрин).

Описаните старини предстои да бъдат проучени и съпоставени с вече известните мегалитни храмови комплекси от Източните Родопи и Мала Азия.

Кои са троглодитите? Това са митологични човекоподобни създания, за които се вярва, че живеят в пещери и дупки,

СЪЖИТЕЛСТВОТО НА КУЛТУРИ – МОРСКА И МЕГАЛИТНА.

КОРАБОПЛАВАНЕ И ПРИСТАНИЩА

Какво означава троглодит? Вече споменах, че това е гръцки термин за обитател на кухина, издълбана от човешка ръка. Историята на троглодитите по днешните български земи започва още в зората на човешката цивилизация, когато хората намират подслон в естествени природни кухини – пещери. През I хил. пр.Хр. траките се възползват от благоприятни геоложки условия (податливи, но не трошливи скали), за да създадат пространство както за живеене, така и

за други дейности – култова, погребална, защитна и стопанска. Бидейки толкова близо до брега, троглодитските паметници са свързани с морската култура на крайбрежното тракийско население и с мегалитната култура на хората от Средиземноморието и Черноморския басейн, където се изграждат множество скални паметници.

Морската култура и история на Тракия и на траките по Черноморското крайбрежие се нарича синтезирано от историците Тракия Понтика (Thracia Pontica) или Тракия Маритима (Thracia Maritima)

Според кратките писмени сведения от старогръцките историци е видно, че предствата за тракийското мореплаване съществува още в най-древните митове. Достътъчно е да припомним мита за Златното руно и свързания с

Метален саитък от нос Каалиакра (копие от музея в Каварна)



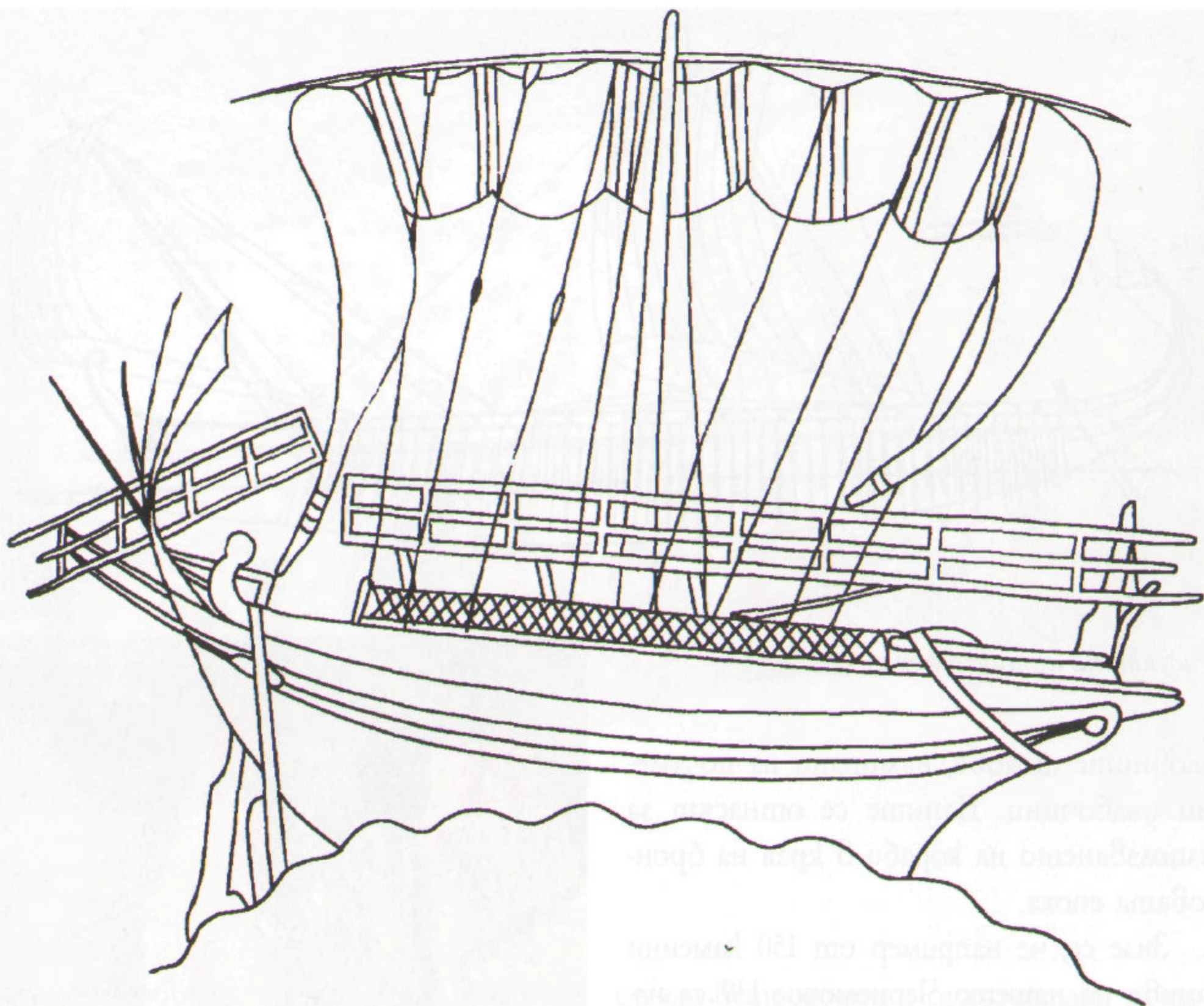


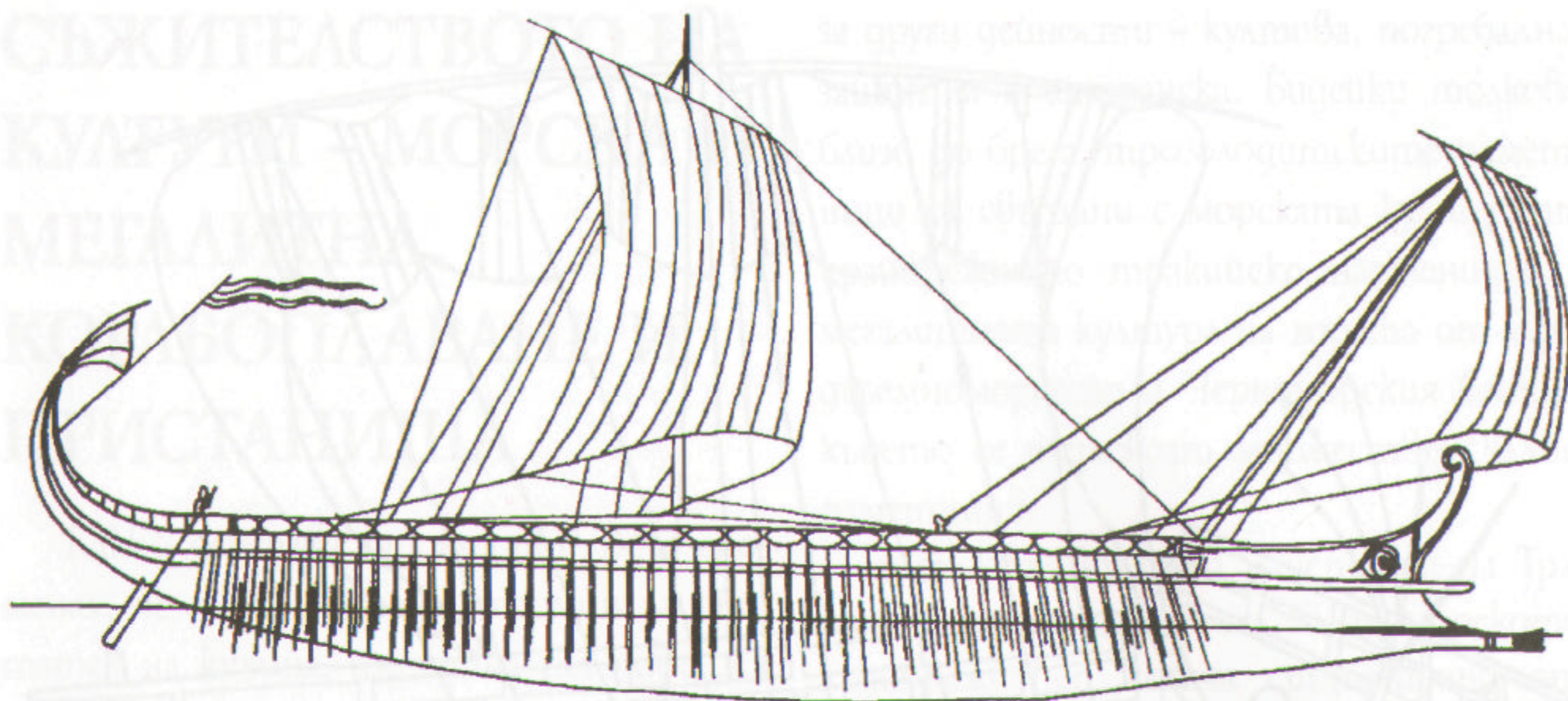
Рисунок на античен кораб

него поход на аргонавтите. Разказът на Аполоний Родоски се отнася за събития, станали в края на II-нач. на I хил. пр.Хр. Впрочем предмет, наподобяващ златно руно или поне символизиращ въпросното, бе открит във водите пред нос Калиакра (античния Тиризис). Той представлява трапец с удължени краища и дъговидно извити стени, с дължина 25 см и ширина 12 см. Тежи 1455 г. Сплав е от 32% злато, 18% сребро, 43% мед и малки количества сяра и никел. По своята форма наподобява известните медни слитъци от Източното Средиземноморие. Свързват го с изображения на подобни слитъци от Тел-ел-Амарна от времето на фа-

раона Аменхотеп IV от XVIII династия (1580-1324 г. пр.Хр.).

Археолозите датират слитъка във втората половина на II хил. пр.Хр.

От това време са каменните котви с отвори (над 150 съхранявани в музеите). Петрографските анализи сочат, че в по-голямата си част те са правени от местни майстори и местни скали. Специалистите по морска археология твърдят, че тези големи каменни котви са обслужвали кораби до 300 тона водоизместимост. Впрочем тук трябва да уточним, че въпросните каменни котви са обслужвали гребно-ветроходни кораби за разлика от каменните и



Рисунка на античен кораб

оловните щокове, намирани на по-големи дълбочини. Даните се отнасят за използването на кораби в края на бронзовата епоха.

Знае се, че например от 150 каменни котви по нашето Черноморие 139 са направени от местни скали. Обособени са две области на „работилници”: северна и южна. Северната е разположена между нос Калиакра и нос Шабла. За нея е характерно, че изработваните котви са предимно с един отвор.

Очевидно е според Калин Порожанов, че каменните котви са предимно местно производство, което означава, че са правени и използвани от местни мореплаватели за нуждите на местните кораби. Едно от местата на производство на котви е Яйлата.

На север от н. Калиакра, между залива на м. Болата и южния край на курортното селище Русалка, е открита наскоро каменна котва с три отвора, доказателство за наличието на пристани и кабо-



Каменни котви от колекцията на НИИМ



Каменна котва от колекцията на НИМ

тажно корабоплаване още през II хилядолетие пр.Хр.

От досега проучените или картирани древни пристанища е видно, че каменните котви се намират в отделни райони от каменните и оловни щокове. Това наблюдение според Калин Порожанов сочи, че котвените места, ползвани от кораби с дървени котви (с каменни и оловни щокове), са различни от котвените места, ползвани от корабите с каменни котви. Корабите с каменни котви са влизали в заливите и са акостирали почти до самия бряг. Това е било възможно, ако те са били гребно-ветроходни. За разлика от тях корабите с дървени котви (с каменни или оловни щокове) е трябвало да хвърлят котва на открити места. Просто те са били в повечето

случаи ветроходни и са разчитали на силата на вятъра, а не на гребците.

Известно е, че гребно-ветроходни са корабите от времето на крито-микенската цивилизация. Те са имали четвъртило платно, но основната движеща сила са били множеството гребци. Корабите са били използвани и за война, и за търговия. Счита се, че техните котви са били само от камък.

И тук възниква поредният въпрос, свързан с древното мореплаване.

Знае се, че количеството каменни котви от Българското Черноморие е много голямо. Не е ясно още колко неоткрити паметници лежат под вода. Кому е бил нужен такъв голям флот, пита се изследователят на морска Тракия Калин Порожанов? Това е било възможно, ако



Развалини от античното селище при нос Шабла

3000 години). По Българското Южно Черноморие брегът е потънал близо 9 м заедно с всички елементи на поселищната система. Такава е ситуацията, дори по-сложна, на север от Одесос (Варна) предвид структурата на крайбрежните скали.

От втората половина на II хил. пр.Хр. до Късната античност (VI в. сл.Хр.) имаме поредица пристанищни центрове, разположени по цялото крайбрежие, свидетелство за регресивния характер в колебанието на морето. От тях са останали изкуствени пристани и рифове, които в определени времена са били използвани и като пристанища. Дълбочината, на която се откриват,

допълнително внася яснота относно промените в нивото на Черно море. Пристанищата, които започват да функционират към средата на II хил. пр.Хр. (късната бронзова епоха) са при н. Шабла (Карон Лимен), н. Калиакра (Тиризис), северното пристанище на Месамбрия, Аполония, Маслен нос (Тера), северното – на Урдовиза. Дълбочината на регистрираните съоръжения и естествените вълноломи от водната повърхност до най-високите им части варира от 4 до 10 м. Ясно е, че някои от тях са стърчали над водата, а други (предимно естествените) са били до равнището на морето или малко под него. Дълбочината например на дългия 400 м риф – пристанище



при н. Шабла е 4 м, при Созопол – 10 м, при Маслен нос – 8-10 м, и др.

За Античността разполагаме с повече информация и картината е по-представителна. Има открити пристани от Бизоне (два на дълбочина 6-9 м), Дионисополис при Лазурен бряг и н. Галата (на 2-2,5 м), Месамбрия – южното пристанище (7 м), при о. Кирик (1,5-3,5 м), Гата и Милос (10 м), Урдовиза, устието на р. Ропотамо и др. Потопени укрепителни системи и квартали са разкрити при античната Кранея (дн. с. Кранево) и Месамбрия на дълбочини до 5 м. Всички посочени съоръжения са строени след VI в. пр.Хр. и престават да функционират към VI в. сл.Хр. Изводът, който се налага от само себе си, е, че от Късната античност насетне се отбелязва покачване на морското равнище. То се свързва с нимфейската трансгресия, която е причина за заливането на пристанищата и части от древните градове по Черноморското крайбрежие. Тя е превишила съвременното морско ниво с 1-2 м.

Ето няколко конкретни примера от Българското Северно Черноморие:

Предполага се, че в предантичната епоха северната част от залива на Крапец е била суша и е заграждала един много удобен пристан за извършване на товаро-разтоварни работи.

Брегът при Шабла общо взето представлява една относително права ивица, разположена в посока север-юг. Всеки, който малко разбира от морско дело и корабоплаване, ще разбере, че днес удобства за пристанище в района северно от с. Тюленово до Мангалия няма. Все пак

Антична амфора от колекцията на НИМ



Антични амфори от колекцията на НИМ

благодарение на подводните проучвания на археолози става ясно, че в района на дн. гр. Шабла, или по-точно при нос Шабла, под водата един риф загражда голямо пространство. Много е вероятно този риф в древността да се е издигал над повърхността и да е предпазвал пристанище от североизточните ветрове. Именно около такова място са открити множество котви. При разкопки на брега е открито складово помещение за амфори, обслужвало древното пристанище. Множество керамични съдове (рибни блюда и амфори), намерени от археолозите пред крепостните стени на брега, свидетелстват за бита на жителите на античното селище.

Типологическият анализ на откритите амфори от подводните проучвания в заливите на Каварна, при нос Калиакра и Яйлата показват, че гръцките амфори са от Хиос, Тасос, Сеинопе, Хераклея, Книд, Родос и Кнос.

Яйлата представлява голяма тераса, разположена на 10-15 м над морското равнище и приблизително толкова под континенталното ниво. Както може да се очаква, акваторията тук е открита за бурните ветрове и днес не предлага почти никакви условия за пристанище. Туристите и днес ползват едно малко пристанище в северната част на Яйлата. Навътре от него към морето са открити 2 каменни котви, а на брега



chaeological monuments in present-day Bulgaria. In the first place they correspond successfully with the so-called megalithic monuments of the East Rhodopes, and in the second, they are made in a general style of an ancient rock.

The first steps toward the preservation of the Thracian heritage were made in 1952, when the ancient monuments in Yulista locality were given status of National Archaeological Monument, embracing about 300 objects (1952-1953). A project is made under the PHAR Program of the European Union for "improvement and development accessible infrastructure" in the area (2003).

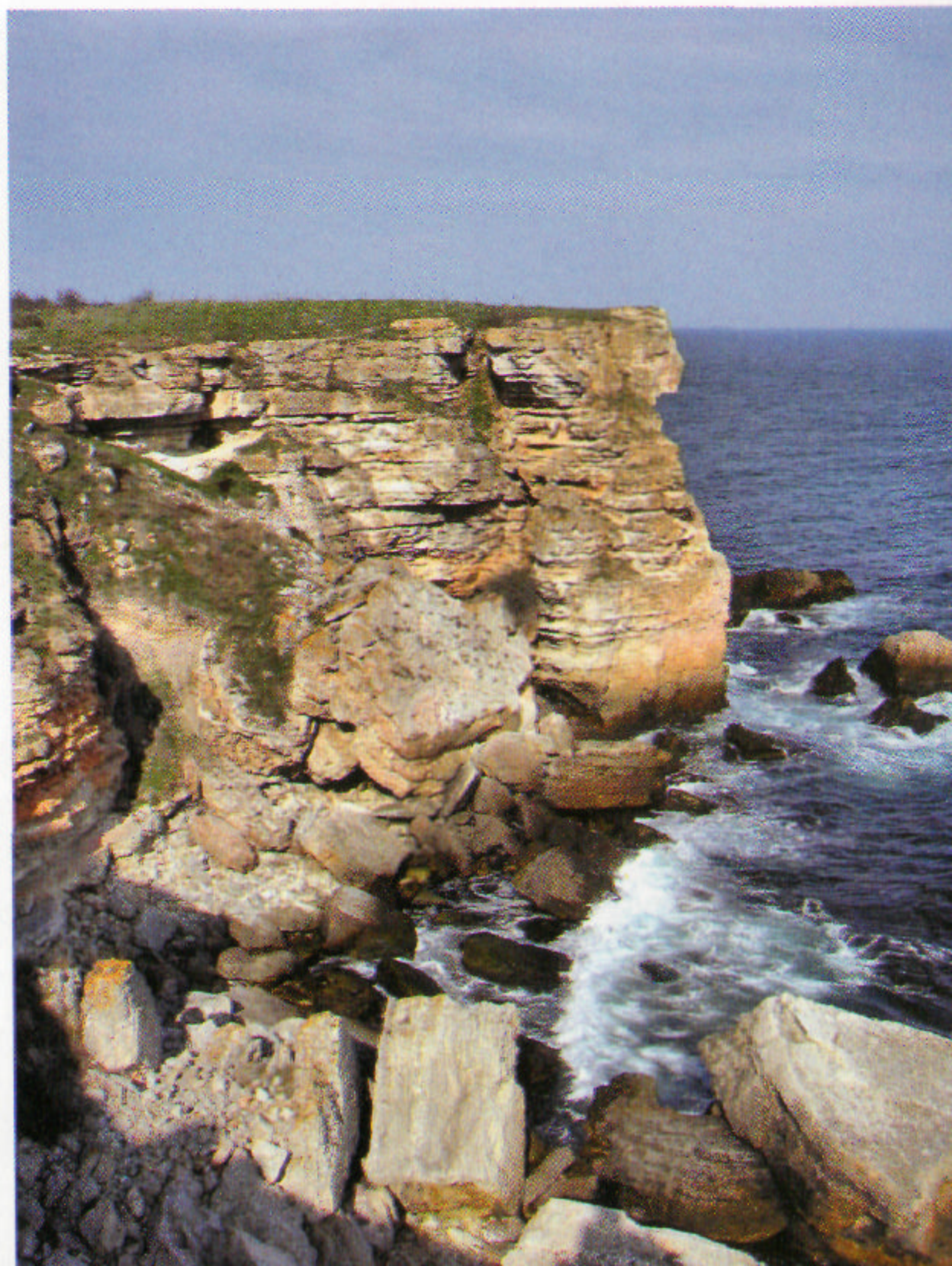
However, Yulista is just one example. Much of sites with concentrations of interesting and important archaeological sites

Черноморският бряг при Яйлата
The Black Sea coast at Yaylata





Черноморският бряг при Яйлата
The Black Sea coast at Yaylata





*Скални гробници от некропол № 1 при с.
Камен бряг*
*Rock tombs from necropolis no. 1 near the
village of Kamen Bryag*





*Скални гробници от некропол № 1 при с.
 Камен бряг*
*Rock tombs from necropolis no. 1 near the
 village of Kamen Bryag*





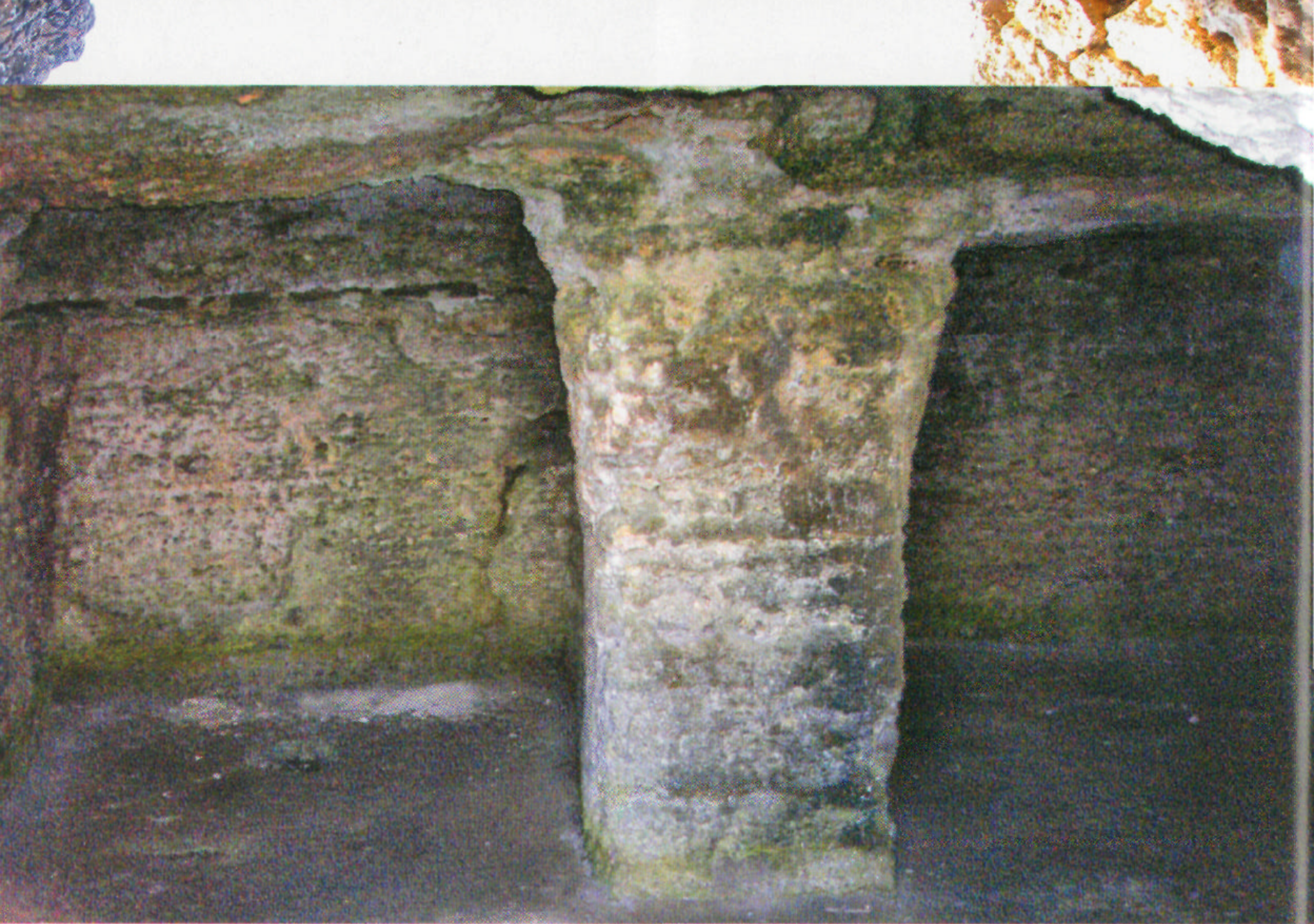
Скално тракийско светилище при с. Камен бряг
Rock Thracian sanctuary near the village of Kamen Bryag





Ранновизантийска крепост в м. Яйлата
Early Byzantine stronghold in the locality of Yaylata





Пещери в м. Яйлата
Caves in the locality of Yaylata





Пещери в м. Яйлата
Caves in the locality
of Yaylata



Пещери в м. Яйлата
Caves in the locality of Yaylata





*Скална гробница от некропол № 2
при с. Камен бряг
Rock tomb from necropolis no. 2
near the village of Kamen Bryag*

*Скално светилище при Яйлата
Rock sanctuary in the locality of Yaylata*





Скални гробници от некропол № 2 при с. Камен бряг
Rock tombs from necropolis no. 2 near the village of Kamen Bryag





*Скални гробници от некропол № 2
при с. Камен бряг
Rock tombs from necropolis no. 2
near the village of Kamen Bryag*





*Скални гробници от некропол № 2
при с. Камен бряг
Rock tombs from necropolis no. 2
near the village of Kamen Bryag*







Пещери в района на с. Тюленово
Caves in the area around the village of Tyulenovo





Пещери в района на с. Тюленово
Caves in the area around the village of Tyulenovo





Пещери в района на с. Тюленово
Caves in the area around the village of Tyulenovo





“Потъналата” суша при с. Тюленово
The “sank” dry-land near the village of Tyulenovo

Скални ниши в района на Русалка
Rock niches in the area of Rusalka





Залив до м. Таук лиман
A bay near the locality of Tauk Liman

Морето при нос Калиакра
The sea at Cape Kaliakra





Пещери в м. Болата
Caves in the locality of Bolata





View from the village of Tselikova

*Πετρερι в м. Болата
Caves in the locality of Bolata*





Тракийска надгробна могила при нос Чиракман
Thracian tumulus at Cape Chirakman

Каварна - поглед от въздуха
Kavarna - view from the air



*Изгрев при с. Камен бряг
и част от пропадналата суша
Sun-rise at the village of Kamen Bryag
and part of the crumbled coast*



*Брегът при с. Тюленово
The coast at the village of Tyulenovo*





*Скални археологически паметници
при с. Тюленово*

*Rock archaeological monuments at the village
of Tyulenovo*



*Скални археологически паметници
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Скални археологически паметници при с. Тюленово
Rock archaeological monuments at the village of Tyulenovo





Скални археологически паметници при с. Тюленово
Rock archaeological monuments at the village of Tyulenovo





Д-р Иван Христов е траколог, специалист по тракийска и римска археология, историческа география и нумизматика. Зам-директор е на Националния исторически музей.

Новата книга на д-р Иван Христов е поглед към миналото и съдбата на тракийските паметници по Западното Черноморие. Спускането от планинска Тракия към морето е една стара мечта на историка, който след години на проучване на археологически обекти в планините на България се потапя в проблемите на подводната археология и история.

В книгата е проследена съдбата на непопулярното в историческата наука тракийско племе троглодити (пещерни хора). Богатият снимков материал е илюстрация на културното наследство на племената, населявали в миналото крайбрежна Добруджа.

Книгата е и сполучлив пътеводител за тези, които оценяват спокойствието и съхранената природа на Северното Българско крайбрежие.

